



# County of Fairfax, Virginia

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **West Ford Computer Learning Center Re-Opens with Expanded Programming for Adults**

On Thursday, Sept. 22, the Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority (FCRHA) and the Fairfax County Office of Partnerships (OP) hosted a grand re-opening of the West Ford Computer Learning Center in the Mount Vernon District. The newly renovated learning center was expanded to allow for an additional 114 square feet and now houses 15 computer stations—5 more than what was previously offered at the center. Additionally, the center's programming has been expanded to include courses for adults along with the educational programming that was already being offered to children. West Ford serves as home for 105 households, and this computer learning center is expected to relieve the lines of those waiting for computers at the nearby Sherwood Hall Library.

Fairfax County recognizes a need to provide job skills training, computer literacy and basic adult education to adults of low or moderate income who may not otherwise have access to computers and the opportunities they offer. The expanded list of programs offered at West Ford will include hardware and software classes, workforce development courses and workshops that address social and economic development. Basic courses designed to help familiarize participants with computers and to introduce users to the Internet will also be available. Enrichment activities will include field trips, literacy enhancement activities and guest speakers. Adult participants will receive certificates upon the completion of each course and OP is also reviewing software that leads to different job-skill certifications.

The West Ford Computer Learning Center is part of a 15-site program known as the Computer Learning Centers Partnership (CLCP). The primary mission of the CLCP is to increase digital equity for underserved children through computer training and access to technology. CLCP's mission is accomplished through the operation of 15 Fairfax County computer learning centers in areas where high concentrations of low-income children and their families live. The computer learning centers offer children a nurturing, after-school environment for learning new computer skills, completing their homework and benefiting from culturally and socially enriching experiences.

Distinguished speakers at the event included Mount Vernon Supervisor Gerald Hyland, who served as Master of Ceremonies; Elisabeth Lardner, Commissioner for the Mount Vernon District of the Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority; Paula C. Sampson, Director of the Fairfax County Department of Housing and Community Development; and Emily Bryant, Executive Director of the Fairfax County Office of Partnerships. Mary Gray and Amy Gould, co-chairs of the Computer Learning Centers Partnership Advisory Council, also spoke at the ceremony.

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To request this information in an alternate format, call 703-246-5105 (TTY 703-385-3578). Please allow seven working days to make the necessary arrangements.

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